

quate to justify the abrupt dismissal of Dr. Hartlaub's conclusions, arrived at after the examination of at least thrice as many specimens from our own collection, in addition to such as he may have had at his disposal from other quarters. All the more inadequate does Mr. Sharpe's decision seem, when we find him wholly ignoring other differentiating characters duly pointed out by Dr. Hartlaub, and accounting for the discrepancy in tint by putting forth the suggestion that *Z. borbonica* undergoes a seasonal change of plumage, though he assigns no evidence in support of such a state of things, which would be highly interesting if it were proved to exist.

10th August, 1888.

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LI.—*On two new Species of Starlings.*

By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S. &c.

THE Oriental Starlings, such as *S. cineraceus*, *S. sericeus*, and their allies, have usually been included in the genus *Sturnus*, or have fluctuated between *Sturnia* and *Temenuchus*. As a matter of fact they do not belong to any of these genera. The type of *Sturnia* of Lesson is *S. sinensis*, which has usually been placed under *Heterornis* of Gray, a genus which is long posterior in date to *Sturnia*. The true Starlings (*Sturnus*) are remarkable for their flattened bill and the bare operculum of the nostril. They have the wing long and pointed, thus differing from *Sturnopastor*, which has, moreover, a bare patch behind the eye.

In the grey-headed eastern group, for which I here propose the name of *Poliopsar*, the anterior plumulets of the forehead are continued over the nasal membrane, and the much more acute and narrow bill at once distinguishes these birds from *Sturnus*.

The following species belong to my new genus:—1. *P. sericeus* (Gm.); 2. *P. cineraceus* (Temm.); 3. *P. colletti*, Sharpe; 4. *P. cambodianus*, Sharpe; 5. *P. burmanicus* (Jerd.); 6. *P. leucocephalus* (Gigl. & Salvad.); 7. *P. andamanensis* (Beavan); 8. *P. erythropygius* (Blyth); 9. *P. malabaricus* (Gm.); 10. *P. nemoricola* (Jerd.); 11. *P. blythi* (Jerd.).

The bird which it is proposed to call after my friend Dr. Robert Collett was presented by him to the British Museum in 1886, and I have refrained from describing it up to this time in hopes of meeting with some additional specimens, as the locality of the one in question is not known. Having, however, now finished my studies of the Old-World Starlings, I have come to the conclusion that Dr. Collett's specimen really belongs to a distinct species, which may be diagnosed as follows:—

*POLIOPSAR COLLETTI*, sp. n.

*P. similis P. cineraceo*, sed nigricantior: uropygio albo absente et caudâ minime albo terminatâ distinguendus.

Long. tot. 8·0, culm. 1·05, alæ 5·0, caudæ 2·55, tarsi 1·45.

*Loc.* Unknown.

*POLIOPSAR CAMBODIANUS*, sp. n.

*Ad.* Similis *P. leucocephalo*, sed rostro flavo, concolore, pileo undique rosacescente et corpore subtus toto fulvo, necnon caudâ rosacescenti-fulvo terminatâ facilè distinguendus. Long. caudæ 2·5, tarsi 1·3.

*Adult.* General colour above dark slaty grey, with a slight wash of sandy brown; rump sandy isabelline; lesser wing-coverts like the back; median series blackish slate-colour; greater coverts bronzy brown, with a narrow black edging; bastard-wing black; edge of wing and primary-coverts white, forming a large patch; quills black, the secondaries bronzy brown, edged with black, resembling the greater coverts; upper tail-coverts dark slaty grey; tail-feathers blackish, tipped with sandy isabelline, paler on the inner webs, the terminal band increasing in width towards the outer feathers; head and neck all round and entire under surface of body sandy isabelline or rosy buff, rather paler on the throat, abdomen, and thighs; axillaries and under wing-coverts creamy white, with a tinge of isabelline, particularly on the edge of the wing; quills blackish below, slightly more ashy along the edge of the inner web. Total length 8 inches, culmen 0·9, wing 4·6, tail 2·5. tarsus 1·3.

*Hab.* Cambodia (*Mouhot*).